

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEAE-00 OES-03 ERDA-05 EB-07 OIC-02

USIE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00

FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01

PM-03 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 EURE-00 /088 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 371

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG UR US

SUBJECT: US-USSR ENERGY AGREEMENT: TEMPORARY GROUPS OF EXPERTS:

OIL

REF: A. STATE 116299; B. STATE 113541; C. STATE 109117

1. SCICOUNS MET WITH DEPTUY MINISTER OF POWER
MAKSIMOV TO DISCUSS POINTS RAISED IN REFTELS
A AND B.

2. SCICOUNS STRESSED THAT US READY TO RECEIVE
DEPUTY MINISTER TAKOYEV AND HIS DELEGATION OF OIL
EXPERTS IN JUNE, PROVIDED THAT SOVIETS CONFIRM
RECIPROCAL US GROUP OF EXPERTS COULD VISIT THE USSR
PRIOR TO THE SECOND JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING. MAKSIMOV
RESPONDED STRONGLY TO THIS, CALLING US POSITION
UNACCEPTABLE. MAKSIMOV ADDED THAT US DEMAND FOR
RECIPROCAL VISITS REPRESENTED "SEVERE AND ARBITRARY
SANCTIONS". WERE THE US TO PERSIST ON THIS POINT,
MAKSIMOV SAID HE MIGHT BE FORCED TO CANCEL THE
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IMMINENT VISITS OF US DELEGATIONS IN THE HEAT RE-

JECTION SYSTEMS AND IN CONSTRUCTION OF HYDROELECTRIC POWER STATIONS PROJECTS WHICH ARE UNDER HIS CONTROL UNDER THE ENERGY AGREEMENT.

3. AFTER HAVING THROWN DOWN HIS GAUNTLET, MAKSIMOV PROCEEDED TO EXPLAIN THAT THE USSR DOES NOT INTERPRET THE RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE JOINT ENERGY COMMITTEE TO REQUIRE RECIPROCAL VISITS OF EXPERTS GROUPS IN THE OIL, COAL, GAS AND INFORMATION AREAS BEFORE THE SECOND SESSION OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE. MAKSIMOV ADDED THAT THE USSR IS WILLING TO RECEIVE US DELEGATIONS OF OIL AND GAS EXPERTS AFTER THE NEXT JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING. THE SOVIET MINISTERIES AND ORGANIZATION INVOLVED IN THE NEW COOPERATIVE AREAS SIMPLY HAD NOT PLANNED ON RECIPROCAL VISITS THIS EARLY AND THEREFORE DO NOT HAVE THE FUNDS TO SEND SOVIET COAL AND INFORMATION DELEGATIONS TO THE US AT THIS TIME. MAKSIMOV SAID THAT AS FARU AS THE SOVIET EXPERTS ARE CONCERNED, THE PRIMARY TASK FOR THE EXPERTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES IS TO FORMULATE JOINT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COOPERATION WHICH WOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE. THE SOVIETS DO NOT SEE THAT THIS REQUIRES RECIPROCAL MEETINGS.

4. IN REGARD TO THE VISIT OF THE US ENERGY INFORMATION AND FORECASTING GROUP, SCICOUNS REQUESTED THE NAMES OF THE SOVIET EXPERTS WHICH MAKSIMOV HAD PROMISED TO PROVIDE. MAKSIMOV BRIEFLY DISPLAYED LIST OF NINE SOVIET EXPERTS, BUT SAID THAT THE LIST WOULD NOT BE HANDED OVER UNTIL THE US PROVIDED THE NAMES OF ITS WORKING GROUP EXPERTS IN ALL COOPERATIVE AREAS OF THE ENERGY AGREEMENT. (HE IS READY TO RECIPROCATATE WITH SOVIET LISTS.) MAKSIMOV RECONFIRMED THAT THE USSR IS PREPARED TO RECEIVE THE US INFORMATION GROUP ONCE THE TOPICS FOR EXPLORATION ARE AGREED UPON.

5. BASED UPON OUR NUMEROUS DISCUSSIONS WITH MAKSIMOV AND OTHER SOVIET OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN ENERGY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGREEMENT, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT SOVIET FEEL THEY HAVE THEIR BACKS TO THE WALL ON THE ISSUE OF RECIPROCAL VISITS BEFORE THE SECOND JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING. ALTHOUGH WE MUCH PREFER THAT THERE BE RECIPROCAL VISITS AS DESIRED BY ERDA AND FEA, WE ARE DOUBTFUL THAT THESE COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BEFORE JULY UNDER ANY CONDITIONS. AT THE SAME TIME WE SENSE THAT THE SOVIET ENERGY OFFICIALS ARE UNDER STRONG

PRESSURE TO CARRY OUT THE JOINT MEETING AS PLANNED. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT ANY NEGATIVE ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS SITUATION, I.E., CANCELLATION OF US DELEGATION VISITS UNDER OTHER PROJECTS IN THE AGREEMENT WOULD REPRESENT A SERIOUS SETBACK TO THESE OTHER, ONGOING PROGRAMS, AND WOULD CAST A PALL ON THE OVERALL AGREEMENT. THEREFORE, EMBASSY'S CONSIDERED RECOMMENDATION IS THAT TAKOYEV'S DELEGATION OF OIL EXPERTS BE RECEIVED BY ERDA WITHOUT "QUID PRO QUO" FOR US OIL DELEGATION VISIT IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE. THE SAME HOLDS TRUE FOR THE VISIT OF THE SOVIET GAS EXPERTS, WHO NOW WISH TO VISIT THE US IN THE LATTER HALF OF JUNE. IN THIS CASE, THE JOINT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COOPERATION WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM THE SOVIET VISITS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ADEQUATE AND COULD PROVIDE FOR US VISITS BEFORE ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION OF ANY COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES IN THESE SPECIFIC AREAS COULD BE UNDERTAKEN.

6. EMBASSY WISHES TO STRESS THAT TAKOYEV IS PREPARING TO DEPART FOR CANADA THIS WEEKEND AND THEVR PLANS TO ARRIVE IN THE US ON JUNE 4 TO JOIN THE OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS GROUP WHICH WILL VISIT PRIVATE US FIMRS, AS WELL AS ERDA. THEREFORE, EMBASSY URGENTLY REQUESTS THAT THIS ISSUE BE RESOLVED, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, BEFORE TAKOYEV'S DEPARTURE FROM MOSCOW IN ORDER TO AVOID FURTHER COMPLICATIONS. MATLOCK

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